

Mayor Mancuso tells the Mirror: 'I'm quitting'

By NAN WATERS

The Mayor of Carbondale will resign from his post as chief executive of the Pennsylvania City at the end of November.

In a telephone conversation with this reporter yesterday, Mayor Fred Mancuso confirmed that "the rumor had some substance, and I will be making a definite decision" on his future by the end of November. "I've been considering this and kicking it around for a long time."

Mancuso became Mayor of Carbondale in 1977 upon the death of the late Dr. A. J. Kaufman, who was elected to a full four-year term.

Mancuso's admission to the MIRROR of imminent resignation came after weeks of speculation by residents of the city and rumors printed in the public press that he was considering resigning.

One area newspaper reported that a tug-of-war in the Republican Party quoted Mancuso as saying at a recent political

gathering in the up valley, that he was definitely thinking of resigning. "He never did much for the Republican party anyway."

His Honor gave the MIRROR his reasons for resigning as "Personal, I want to spend more time with my wife. I want to do more engineering consulting, and have more peace of mind. You know, you get burned out in politics," he added.

"And," the Mayor noted, "it will make my wife a little happier!"

"May we quote you on that?" the MIRROR asked. "What do you mean by that?"

Asked about the timeline for his resignation, Mayor Mancuso replied, "I want to get through this budget thing, and not drag it out. So I mean, I'm not sure when I'm going to leave."

One area newspaper quoted Mancuso's frequent broohaha with Councilman Michael

Toleric over the running of the city. Toleric, who is a Democrat, has often been at loggerheads with him both in Council Chamber and in the press.

In addition to his administrative duties for the city, Mayor Mancuso also works as a engineer and supervisor of roads and technical and engineering at Worthington Scranton Campus of Pennsylvania State University. He is the son of the former Frank Lepore, a Democrat, who ran on a coalition ticket with Mancuso and Toleric.

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Jermyn's
Community House has been scene of some controversy lately. Hearing was held last week.

MICU
Up-valley MICU will soon be operational. A meeting was held last week to discuss that operation.

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Crime in Carbondale and surrounding towns drops

While the rest of the nation is suffering from rising crime rates, the City of Carbondale saw a decrease in the number of total crimes between 1979 and 1980.

The latter figures were recently released. Part One Offenses, the more serious type of crime, Carbondale saw a drop of 184 in 1980.

The total crime dropped slightly to 181 in 1980.

Part Two Offenses, the less serious, had a total of 289 in 1979.

The year 1980 saw the number of Part Two Offenses drop to 259.

The percentage of Part One cases cleared dropped from 47.8 percent in 1979 to 46.8 in 1980.

Part Two crimes, the less serious, also dropped — from 23.4 percent in 1979 to 13.3 percent in 1980.

For the more serious crimes, there were no

murders or manslaughter cases reported either year.

There was one rape reported which was cleared, and one robbery, both cleared; six assault, five cleared; 18 burglaries, seven cleared; 136 thefts (theft not specified); 136 auto thefts; 13 shoplifting, a end purse-snatching, 24 cleared; 21 motor vehicle thefts, four cleared.

The year 1980 saw other offenses, 2, 2; stolen property, 2, 2; vandalism, 150, 7; weapons, 1, 1; narcotics, 5, 5; sexually offenses, 1, 1; auto theft, 1, 1; and auto, 2, 2; driving under the influence, 6, 6; liquor laws, 19, 19; drunkenness, 1, 1; disorderly, 63, 63; and other, 8, 8.

These figures were included in volumes of the "Crime in Pennsylvania" Uniform Crime Report.

Part One Offenses in Scott Township also

dropped from 1979 to 1980.

Figures released show a total of 61 reported cases, 53 cleared in 1979 and 40 (11 cleared) in 1980.

Cases cleared in 1979 were 24.6 percent of the total reported, while in 1980 21.7 percent.

The same trend developed for Part Two Offenses.

A total of 125 Part Two Offenses were reported in 1979, with 130 cleared for 74.3 percent cleared. In 1980 164 cases reported and 62 were cleared — representing a total of 37.8 percent cleared.

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Part One Offenses from 1979 to 1980.

Mayfield reported 34 cases in 1979. Of these, five were cleared for a 14.7 percent rate.

By 1980 the total reported rose to 44, with five cleared for a 2.3 percent rate.

For the less serious crimes, Mayfield reported 62 cases in 1979, with 29 cases cleared for a 46.8 percent.

These figures show that there were

38 cases reported, with five cleared. The cleared cases represented 13.2 percent of the total.

Part Two Offenses (the less serious

cases) showed Jermyn with 87 cases reported in 1979 and 33 cases cleared — 37.9 percent cleared.

By 1980 the total dropped to 71 cases, with 29 cleared — 40.8 percent cleared.

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This report is a 56.9 percent clearing figure, up from 53.5 percent last year.

The booklet from which all these figures

taken, while the individual figures

not stated, is available in the appendices of the report, these listings are not intended to

show who investigates the crimes or clears the offenses.

When the sun goes down in Carbondale town, crime is not normally on the citizens' minds. See story above. (Ros-Al)

Will expansion kill hospitals' merger?

By NAN WATERS

To merge or not to merge...that is the question!

Sixteen-million-dollar expansion, yes; the more aide, the proposed, long-awaited and much-discussed merger between Carbondale's two hospitals — Carbondale General and St. Joseph's — has been dealt a death blow last week when St. Joseph's announced a \$16-million expansion program.

And officials of both hospitals aren't talking.

The only hospital-associated individual

who would comment for publication was William Farber, area businessman and president of Carbondale General's board of directors.

"My only comment would be that St. Joseph's has not decided to merge with Carbondale General," he said. "They have not run into the city to build a new hospital. The new project of theirs was not done through proper channels. It did not go through the Health Department, and was not recommended by them. And, there are no local people involved."

General eyes proposal

"We are studying the future at the General," Farber continued, "and we will be

building business for many years to come. We will submit a proposal to the HSA within the next 90 days."

Farber said in August, "As far as I know, no...the merger hasn't been talked about." Yet two months later, two days later, Sister James Cephas Ryan, director of planning and development, sends a news release to the local news media announcing an expansion project which will involve a four-story patient tower and a one-story addition.

No urge to merge?

The MIRROR, in its edition Aug. 19, 1981, in a page one story, posed the question, "Have both Carbondale hospitals lost the urge to merge?"

At that time, Sister M. Cephas Ryan

had been executive officer, state through her secretary, "The merger is still on the table."

Pace said in August, "As far as I know, no...the merger hasn't been talked about." Yet two months later, two days later, Sister James Cephas Ryan, director of planning and development, sends a news release to the local news media announcing an expansion project which will involve a four-story patient tower and a one-story addition.

Does this mean that St. Joseph's, which is

for all intents and purposes landlocked geographically, expanding vertically, with an eye to withdrawing from the merger plan?

Sister Cephas has been, according to internal sources, a patient at her own hospital, and will reportedly be major surgery.

Asst. Admin. Sister Michael E. Exford, who quit this week by the MIRROR as to "What's on in?" regarding the possible juncture of the two hospitals, replied succinctly, "I am not allowed to make any comment."

When questioned about Sister Cephas' condition, he did say, "She has been

at the adjacent IHM Convent, and would be

"back to work within a couple weeks" (See related stories on page 5.)

Farber's reference was to the fact that St. Joseph's planned expansion includes a St. Louis, Mo., architectural firm, Hospital

Building and Equipment Company, a Philadelphia accounting firm, Pesti, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, investment bankers from New York, and the New York-based Weld Capital Markets Group, and a consulting service, Community Counseling Services, New York City.

Carbondale General's Executive Vice President, Dr. John H. Healy, was quoted in the past that he "cannot speak for his board of directors."

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